MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to extend Cotton Monopoly Scheme in Maharashtra for five years.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAUSAHEB PUNDLIK FUNDKAR (Akola) : Mr. Chairman, Maharashtra accounts for 35 percent of the total cotton production in the country. The Cotton Monopoly Scheme in Maharashtra has been in operation since 1971. Under this scheme, the Cotton Marketing Association tries to benefit 20 lakh farmers of Maharashtra by purchasing their cotton. 6000 workers are engaged under this scheme and organisation like Guming Processing Factory, Agricultural Produce Marketing Society, Sale Purchase Association etc. work under this scheme. To operate this scheme, approval of the Central Government is necessary but the Central Government accords approval to this scheme on yearly basis due to which the scheme is not getting stabilised. The one-year period of this scheme has just ended on 30th June, 1996. In 1995-96, 1 crore 30 lakh quintals of cotton has been purchased from the farmers under this scheme.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to issue orders to extend this Scheme for a further period of 5 years...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order please. What is going on here?

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Chairman, the Treasury benches are behaving in a manner which is not expected of them. It is really unprecedented. Will you conduct the business of the House here or the ruling party will hold their. Conference here? If they have to hold the Conference, they may do so outside...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have conveyed it to the Treasury benches.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is happening everyday...*(Interruptions)*

(ii) Need for commencing work on proposed Maksi-Godhara via Dhar Pithampur railway line.

SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR (Dhar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Dhar is a tribal and extremely backward area. Even after so many years of our independence, it is yet to be linked through a railway line whereas every year, while presenting the Central Budget, the Central Government claims that it pays special attention to the development of tribal and backward areas. Pithampur is under the Dhar district which is a very big industrial area and is counted among the main industrial areas of the country. There are about 300-350 industrial units in Pithampur.

The historical tourist resort Mandu and a famous Jain pilgrim place in Maharashtra are situated in this district where thousands of foreign tourists pay their visit every year but they have to undergo a great deal of inconvenience for want of rail facilities. Despite all this, this area has not been linked with a railway line, as a renes of which the industrial units and the tourist resorts of this district are being adversely affected.

The work on the proposed Maksi Godhra railway line via Dhar Pithampur has not yet commenced. No provision has been made for this even in this railway budget.

I therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister to have a survey conducted for linking Indore to Pithampur on the proposed Maksi Godhra railway line whose survey has already been conducted.

(iii) Need to ensure that workers living in the premises of industrial units in Delhi are not evacuated from their houses due to shifting of units.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, as per a recent judgement of the Supreme Court, 168 industrial units of Delhi have been declared environmentally hazardous. These industrial units have been ordered to be shifted to some other places of the National Capital region by the coming 30th November. This may perhaps solve the problem of the Pollution but the Government should also think of the residential areas of the workers associated with these industrial units.

I would urge the Central Government that the workers of these units who are living in the premises of these industrial units should not be evacuated from their houses. Instead, they should be made the owners of these houses. Due to shifting of the units, on the one hand, the workers would be rendered unemployed and on the other, if they were evicted even from their houses, they would be completely ruined. Due to this apprehension. There is widespread discontent among them and they are prepared to launch an agitation.

Even in my constituency, Thousands of poor workers have been living for years in Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Swatantra Bharat Mill Colony, Birla Cotton Mill and Ayodhya Textile Mill Colony. If the Government decides to allow them to continue to live these, it will provide them immense relief. I, therefore, request that these workers who are living in rented houses for years may be given ownership rights of these houses.